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original. The Bosworth-Toller translation of "*heofonsteorran bebugað bradue hwyrft*," as "the stars of heaven encompass a spacious circle (the earth⁴)," is misleading. *Hwyrft* obviously refers to the heavens (that which goes about, revolves around, the earth); and *bugað* should have the force of 'fill' ('dwell in,' 'occupy'). 'The stars which fill the spacious circle of the heavens,' would thus be a better rendering. Cosijn's reading, therefore, ought certainly to be adopted.

For similar reasons, should we not read, in line 324, "*þe in eare gryndeð*" instead of "*in eare gryndeð*"? In the corresponding line in *Azarias*, we possibly have the *þe* preserved in *yþe*—plainly a corruption, since there is no warrant for it in the original. A *þe* standing absolutely alone in this way is, of course, not unusual: see, for example, *Gen.* 365, 627; *Crist* 353, 483; *Guth.* 587. As to *his uurim a*, the text of *Azarias*, *swa uurime* (referring back to *heofonsteorran* as the most conspicuous noun indicating number preceding) is, on the whole, to be preferred; but, since *his uurim a* yields a fairly satisfactory sense, a change is perhaps unwarranted.

Very sincerely yours,

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AN ARITHMETICAL PROBLEM IN VALDÉS'S JOSÉ.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—I have recently noted a surprising arithmetical miscalculation in the *José* of Valdés, occurring in the third chapter, in the account of the settling of the bill between 'la señá Isabel' and José. The figures, found on pages 30 and 31 of the text edited by F. J. A. Davidson, Boston, 1900, are as follows: José has delivered to Isabel "El domingo, 307 libras - - - el lunes, 1040, - - - el martes, 2200, - - - el jueves, 235, - - - hoy, 1140." That is, a total of 4922 lbs. The prices for the various days were "El domingo - - á real; el lunes á tres cuartillos; el martes [á medio real, p. 30] - - el jueves á real y medio, y hoy á real." Isabel proposes, on the pretext that the account is hard to cast on this arrangement, but really, as other passages show beyond reason-

⁴ See under *hwyrft*.

able doubt, to cheat José out of a few extra duros, that she pay for the whole at the rate of 7 cuartos (that is, 28 maravedís, or $\frac{28}{34}$ real); the whole price which she then offers being then 4053 $\frac{7}{17}$ reales. But according to the rates for each day, as given above, she would have had to pay, Sunday, 307 r.; Monday, 780 r.; Tuesday, 1100 r.; Thursday, 352 $\frac{1}{2}$ r.; and the day in question 1140 r.; that is, in all, only 3679 $\frac{1}{2}$ r.. That is, she loses, by her own proposition, 373 r., 31 mar. Yet Valdés most certainly represents her as gaining by the transaction: "Terminó al fin la señá Isabel; aprobó José su propio *despojo*", and Prof. Davidson explicitly states in his note that "She cheats him out of a little more than 4 *maravedís* on the pound" (p. 182, note 1 to page 31). The mistake on the part of the editor is probably due to the calculation that the average of the prices for the several days, as given above, is 32.3 maravedís, whereas her offer is for only 28 mar.; the error being in the neglect of the fact that no such average may be taken as base of comparison, since the amount sold varied on the several days.

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ARCADIA.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—The definiteness of certain descriptions of place in Sidney's *Arcadia* is in contrast with the general character of the descriptions in that artificial romance. There is a charming individuality in the little stream in which the ladies bathe, as it is described in Bk. ii, Chap. ii; and there are still more striking traits of reality in the description of Kalandar's house in Bk. i, Chap. 2, to which I wish particularly to call attention. The description of the house is as follows:

"The house itselfe was built of faire and strong stone, not affecting so much any extraordinary kind of finenesse as an honourable representing of a firme statelinesse. The lights, doores and staires, rather directed to the use of the guest than to the eye of the Artificer; each place handsome without curiosity, and homely without loathsomenesse; all more lasting than beautiful, but that the consideration of the exceeding lastingnesse made the eie believe it was exceedingly beautiful."

The varied and mingled beauties of the gardens are then described.

Mr. Philip Sidney in his recent Memoirs of the Sidney Family suggests that one of his two country homes was in Sir Philip's mind when he wrote this. The description of Penshurst, the Sidneys' country home, in Jonson's Epistle addressed to it, seems to make it clear that Penshurst was in fact the original of Kalanders' house.

"Thou art not, Penshurst, built to envious show
Of touch, or marble; nor canst boast a row
Of polished pillars or a roof of gold;
Thou hast no lantern, whereof tales are told;
Or stair or courts; but stand'st an ancient pile,
And these grudging at, are revered the while."

And again:

"Thy walls be of the country stone."

The surroundings of the house, too, as described by Jonson, especially the orchard, agree closely enough with those which Sidney represents about the house of Kalanders. For so 'homely' a residence Penshurst had remarkable fortune, to be praised by three such poets as Sidney, Jonson, and Waller.

MORRIS W. CROLL.

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ZURÜCKE.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—In Mr. A. B. Nichols's edition of the *Jungfrau von Orleans* the following note to line 1125 is found: "*zurück*. In MHG. the adverb ended in *-e*; this is still seen in *lange*, *ferne*, *gerne*, *stille*, and is still used by the poets in other cases." The above statement of fact is true as far as it goes, but would it not be well to tell the whole truth? The inference which one might justly draw from the above note would be that *zurück* is to be placed in the same category with *lange*, *ferne*, etc., and that the ending *-e* of *zurück* had the same origin as the *-e* of the adverbs *lange*, *ferne*, etc. It may perhaps not be considered necessary that an undergraduate should know that *-e* in *lange*, *ferne*, etc., stands for the OHG. adverb-forming suffix *-o*, as found in *lango*, *ferno*, etc., and that *zurück* is really a prepositional phrase, which in OHG. had the form *zi rucke*; but in its present form the note is at the best misleading.

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A NEW RABELAIS EDITION.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—Mr. L. Rosenthal, the well-known antiquarian of Munich, claims the honor of an exceedingly interesting discovery for French literature; namely, a copy of the fifth book of Rabelais's story of *Gargantua et Pantagruel*, in an edition published in 1549, during the lifetime of the author. In order to appreciate the importance of this text, we must remember that the oldest edition we have depended upon so far is dated 1564, eleven years after Rabelais's death. We had besides a few chapters of one printed in 1562. The prevailing opinion was, up to the present, that the author, thinking to be prudent, did not actually publish this fifth book of his work himself, because of the very sharp attacks on the society of the time which are contained in it. The complete disappearance of the supposed edition of 1549 would be testimony to the great vigor shown by the church and state authorities of the sixteenth century. It may well be that Mr. Rosenthal possesses the only copy that escaped censure and fire.

However that may be, the new edition at hand dissipates all doubt as to the authenticity of the last part of the immortal *chef-d'œuvre* of Rabelais—authenticity which has been so strongly doubted by scholars of the highest standing.¹ Those who did not take this extreme position were nevertheless unanimous in admitting that we did not know the book in its original form. Thus, for them also, the recently announced discovery is of momentous importance, since it will allow a positive line of demarcation to be drawn between the Rabelaisian text and the interpolations and changes due to unscrupulous editors.

So far only the size of the book discovered has been made known to the public. Mr. Rosenthal gives it as a 16mo, containing sixty-four pages of twenty-one lines each. Yet even this very little bit of news suffices to show that the edition of 1564 was, as is generally admitted, overloaded with spurious material.

In the edition of Burgaud des Marets et Rathery, for instance, the fifth book covers over two hundred pages of rather small print. Although a considerable portion of many of

¹ The last time by Brunetière: *Questions de Critique*, 1897, pp. 2-22.